

# State of South Dakota

## SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2002

735H0371

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Introduced by: Representatives Davis, Bartling, Burg, Duniphan, Elliott, Glenski, Hanson (Gary), Hargens, Hennies (Don), Hennies (Thomas), Hundstad, Kloucek, Peterson (Jim), Sigdestad, and Van Norman and Senators McIntyre, Albers, Brown (Arnold), Dennert, Hutmacher, Koetzle, Reedy, Staggers, and Sutton (Dan)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the study of the problem of teenage in-vehicle  
2 drinking and drug use.

3 WHEREAS, teenagers with ready access to motor vehicles have become increasingly mobile,  
4 adding a new fluid dynamic to the manner in which teenagers use alcohol and illegal drugs; and

5 WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse by teenagers has not significantly declined in the past  
6 several years and remains unacceptably high, possibly, for certain groups, increasing in incidence  
7 and shifting to riskier settings; and

8 WHEREAS, two thousand two hundred thirty-eight fifteen to twenty year olds were killed  
9 in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1999 across America; and

10 WHEREAS, the Aluminum Anonymous Project surveyed nine hundred miles of South  
11 Dakota roadside from Hot Springs to Rapid City to Pierre to Selby to North Dakota state line  
12 and from North Dakota state line to Aberdeen to Huron to Mitchell to Yankton to Vermillion  
13 and from Sioux Falls to Brookings in May 1998, and May 2000, for the discard rate of alcohol



1 beverage containers, finding an average of six hundred fifty beer cans-beer bottles per mile of  
2 road annually, and followed up with thirty-five "Who's Doing the Tossing?" interviews of South  
3 Dakota grass roots' professionals working with teens and adults in alcohol and drug settings who  
4 collectively estimated that fifty-five percent of the discarded alcohol containers were coming  
5 from teenagers; and

6 WHEREAS, three state Legislatures, New Mexico, Montana, and Rhode Island, have passed  
7 similar resolutions in 2001, and, in several other states, legislators have either introduced or plan  
8 to introduce such resolutions for the 2002 session; and

9 WHEREAS, the January 2001, report of the National Center on Substance Abuse and  
10 Addiction (CASA), New York, NY, "Shoveling Up: Impact of Substance Abuse on State  
11 Budgets," states that only three percent of the \$129 million total that South Dakota spends  
12 annually on substance abuse problems goes for prevention and treatment, while the remaining  
13 ninety-seven percent goes for cleaning up the wreckage caused by substance abuse and  
14 addiction:

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
16 seventh Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
17 Department of Health and Department of Human Services in cooperation with the Department  
18 of Transportation and Department of Commerce and Regulation and the Office of the Attorney  
19 General study the problem of teenage in-vehicle drinking and related drug use by assembling and  
20 determining what is known and not known about this behavior, its causes, prevalence, and  
21 incidence. The departments shall also study the problem by assessing the effectiveness of present  
22 policies, programs, and evaluation techniques and gauging the adequacy of interagency  
23 collaboration, including data sharing, program development, and cross-training, in meeting the  
24 challenges of this problem; and

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Health report to the Legislature, if  
2       necessary, with a recommended plan of action, encompassing policy and program, that would  
3       more comprehensively incorporate teenage in-vehicle drinking and related drug use into the  
4       scope of South Dakota's substance abuse and youth violence prevention strategies. The report  
5       should concentrate on ways of modifying and reforming present policies and programs rather  
6       than creating new programs.